FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, December 3, 2020

Indiana Couple Charged Criminally for Fraudulently obtaining Hardest Hit Fund Mortgage Assistance

This week Richard and Jennifer Knox, of Elkhart, Indiana, were each charged in the Elkhart County Superior Court, with one count of Fraud in receiving public assistance or relief and two counts of making false statements, regarding thousands of dollars in mortgage assistance benefits received under the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act's billion-dollar component Hardest Hit Fund (HHF), was provided to Indiana's housing finance agency to help unemployed and underemployed homeowners stay in their homes.

The Hardest Hit Fund was meant to help Indiana families stay in their homes. The Hardest Hit Fund program in Indiana is administered by the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority (IDHCA).

The charges allege that after initially receiving unemployment mortgage assistance benefits from the IHCDA, Richard Knox began employment and both he and his wife, Jennifer, failed to disclose his employment and continued to fraudulently receive the benefits, from February 2017 to December 2017.

The case will be heard in the Elkhart County Superior Court and tried by the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney for Elkhart County.

This case was investigated by the Office of Special Inspector General for the Troubled Asset Relief Program (SIGTARP). SIGTARP was created as an independent law enforcement agency to investigate fraud, waste, and abuse related to the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act (EESA). To date, SIGTARP investigations have resulted in the recovery of over $11.2 billion, 389 criminal convictions and 306 defendants sentenced to prison.

To report a suspected crime related to EESA, call SIGTARP's Crime Tip Hotline: 1-877-SIG-2009 (1-877-744-2009). To receive alerts about reports, audits, media releases, and other SIGTARP news, sign up at www.SIGTARP.gov/pages/press.aspx. Follow SIGTARP on Twitter @SIGTARP.

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